

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 02559 182057Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7959
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
CSA WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
CSAF WASHDC
CDR DARCOM ALEXANDRIA VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 2559

SECDEF FOR ASD:ISA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PINT, EC
SUBJECT: ECUADOREAN MILITARY MISSION TO US WILL STATE DEMOCRATIC
INTENTIONS

1. SUMMARY: HIGH-LEVEL ECUADOREAN MILITARY MISSION
CURRENTLY IN US HAS PREPARED AN AIDE MEMOIRE IN WHICH IT
REJECTS INSINUATION THAT RECENT BORDER PROBLEMS WITH PERU
WERE LINKED TO UPCOMING ELECTIONS AND MAKING CATEGORICAL
ASSURANCE OF DETERMINATION OF ARMED FORCES TO CARRY OUT
DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION PROCESS. GOE HAS PREPARED GROUP ON
A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS AND MEMBERS MAY INITIATE, OR BE
PREPARED TO SPEAK ON HUMAN RIGHTS, BORDER INTEGRATION
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, AND STRATEGIC RESERVE PETROLEUM PURCHASES.
END SUMMARY.
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 QUITO 02559 182057Z

2. PRIOR TO THE DEPARTURE TO THE US OF THE SEVEN-MAN
ECUADOREAN MILITARY MISSION HEADED BY CHIEF OF THE JOINT
COMMAND VICE ADMIRAL RENAN OLMEDO ON APRIL 16, THE
EMBASSY WAS SHOWN A COPY OF AN AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH THE
TEAM INTENDS TO LEAVE WITH INTERLOCUTORS AT STATE AND
DEFENSE DURING MEETINGS SCHEDULED IN WASHINGTON ON

APRIL 20-21. WHILE MOST OF THE MEMORANDUM IS DEVOTED TO AN EXEGESIS OF ITS PROBLEMS WITH PERU AS AN EXPLANATION OF WHY ECUADOR IS CURRENTLY SEEKING ACTIVE AND PASSIVE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS, IT CONCLUDES WITH WHAT WE CONSIDER IS A HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT COMMENT ON THE CURRENT POLITICAL PROCESS AIMING AT A RETURN TO CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT LATER THIS YEAR.

3. THE MEMO STATES, "WE ARE INTERESTED IN MAKING YOU AWARE THAT THE ECUADOREAN GOVERNMENT FINDS ITSELF FIRMLY AND SERIOUSLY RESOLVED IN CARRYING OUT THE PROCESS OF RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT, WHICH BY BEING THE VOLUNTARY DECISION OF THE ARMED FORCES, THUS PROVIDES AN EXAMPLE OF PATRIOTIC SENSIBILITY... THIS PLAN, WHICH IS ALREADY BEING IMPLEMENTED WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED EVEN IN THE FACE OF SUBVERSIVE ATTITUDES INSPIRED BY INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM... IN ORDER TO OBTAIN ITS PERVERSE GOALS. CONSEQUENTLY, HAVING VOLUNTARILY PUT INTO MOTION SUCH AN IMPORTANT PROCESS AND SINCE ALL FRIENDLY COUNTRIES ARE AWARE OF IT, WE COULD HARDLY ATTEMPT TO SEEK A PRETEXT NOT TO CARRY IT OUT; THEREFORE, WE CONSIDER FALLACIOUS ANY SO-CALLED INTELLIGENCE TO THE EFFECT THAT OUR GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO AVOID CARRYING OUT SAID HISTORIC PROCESSES BY CAUSING FRONTIER PROBLEMS, WHEN OUR INTERNAL SITUATION CAN BE CHARACTERIZED AS ONE OF THE MOST STABLE IN SOUTH AMERICA AND WHEN THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF IS PROMOTING THE STRENGTHENING OF SERIOUS AND RESPONSIBLE

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PAGE 03 QUITO 02559 182057Z

POLITICAL PARTIES."

4. THE STATEMENT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN INSERTED AS A MEANS OF RESPONDING TO SECRETARY VANCE'S RECENT LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER AYALA WHICH THE GOE INFERRED HAD INDICATED SKEPTICISM THAT ECUADOR'S PROTESTATIONS ON THE RECENT BORDER PROBLEMS WERE MORE A FUNCTION OF ATTEMPTING TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM INTERNAL PROBLEMS THAN OF CONCERN OVER PERU'S ACTIONS AND ATTITUDES. (AN ASSESSMENT WHICH, INCIDENTALLY, THE EMBASSY HAS NEVER SHARED). IN DOING THIS, HOWEVER, THE NATION'S HIGHEST MILITARY OFFICERS HAVE BEEN INDUCED TO REAFFIRM THEIR COMMITMENT IN A VERY CATEGORICAL DECLARATION TO AN UNINTERRUPTED RETURN PROCESS. SINCE THIS GROUP IS ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE TO THE GOOD OPINION OF THE US, THIS IDENTIFICATION WITH THE STATEMENT MAY HAVE EVEN GREATER SIGNIFICANCE.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT THE DISPOSITION OF THE GROUP (WHICH ALSO INCLUDES THE CHIEFS OF STAFF OF THE ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE) TO DISCUSS THE MATTER OF RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY AFFORDS THE US AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE ANOTHER HEALTHY PSYCHOLOGICAL BOOST TO THE PROCESS.

USG OFFICIALS WITH WHOM THE MISSION WILL MEET SHOULD BE AWARE OF THIS.

6. USG OFFICIALS SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE THAT WHILE THE OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE OF THE MISSION IS TO ADVANCE FURTHER TOWARD A COMMITMENT TO PURCHASE THE CHAPARRAL-VULCAN SYSTEM AND AN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL/AIR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM, THE GROUP ALSO PERCEIVES THAT IT HAS A WIDER DIPLOMATIC ROLE. ASIDE FROM THE SUBJECT OF RETURN TO DEMOCRACY, THE GROUP MEMBERS, HAVING CONSULTED WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND OTHERS, SEEM TO BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS ARMS CONTROL MEASURES, HUMAN RIGHTS, SALE OF ECUADOREAN PETROLEUM FOR THE US STRATEGIC RESERVE, REGIONAL TUNA FISHING CONVENTION AS WELL AS THE POSSIBILITY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 QUITO 02559 182057Z

OF DEVELOPMENT AID FOR ECUADOR-PERU BORDER INTEGRATION PROJECTS.

7. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT COURTEOUS AND SERIOUS TREATMENT BY USG OFFICIALS OF THE MISSION IN ITS MULTIFARIOUS ASPECTS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO MANY OF OUR OBJECTIVES HERE, ABOVE AND BEYOND THE SALE OF AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS. FOR THESE REASONS WE ARE DISTURBED BY A REPORT WE HAVE HEARD THAT A SCHEDULED VISIT WITH ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL ROGERS MAY HAVE BEEN CANCELLED. WHILE WE REALIZE THAT THE DEMANDS ON THE TIME OF THE PRINCIPALS INVOLVED MAY RENDER SUCH CHANGES UNAVOIDABLE, WE HOPE THAT THEY CAN BE MINIMIZED AND THAT APPROPRIATE SUBSTITUTES BE FOUND.

8. NOTE FOR ARA: AIR CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL ABAD PERSONALLY DIRECTED THE SECURITY MEASURES AT THE GUAYAQUIL AND QUITO AIRPORTS WHEN MICHAEL TOWNLEY PASSED THROUGH ECUADOR ON APRIL 8, AND THIS SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED.
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